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## PRISON BILLS IN NEW YORK

IX. Providing for the creation in the office of the Superintendent of Prisons of an employment bureau for paroled and discharged convicts.

X. Providing for the establishment in the office of the Superintendent of Prisons of a Bureau of Criminal Statistics for the State of New York.

**Report of the Illinois State Reformatory.**—The twelfth biennial report of the managers of the Illinois State Reformatory at Pontiac has just been received. It covers the period ending June 30, 1914. The report contains a great deal of data that should be interesting to the general public. Among other things, we notice that the General Superintendent urges the purchase of additional land for the institution. Two hundred acres of land are now available for farming purposes. He says that the statistics of the institution show that 90 per cent of their boys who are paroled as farm hands, after having been taught the art of farming at the institution, make good farmers and substantial citizens. He recommends, therefore, that at least 300 acres of land, in addition to that now held, be purchased for this purpose. The farm superintendent also urges that this step be taken, and adds that in a short time the products of the farm will be sufficient to supply the institution.

The General Superintendent calls attention to the fact that the Ohio State Farm has recently purchased 1,000 acres for this purpose.

The population of the reformatory has been slowly decreasing for several years, owing to several facts: *First*, boys who are found guilty of crime in the municipal courts of Chicago are no longer sent to the reformatory, but are confined in Cook County institutions. *Second*, the criminal courts of Cook County commit a large percentage of those found guilty to Cook County institutions. *Third*, a large number of boys, formerly committed to the state reformatory, are now sent to the St. Charles School for Boys. *Fourth*, courts are taking advantage of the recent law which gives all courts of record the right to place certain first offenders upon probation.

The superintendent recommends that only boys who are over the age of 16 years should be sent to the state reformatory; that the state laws be so changed as to include all offenders under the age of 16, and that the age limit be raised from 16 to 25 years inclusive. He would admit, therefore, only first offenders who are aged from 21 to 25 years inclusive, and a provision should be made that in case it should become definitely known after commitment to the reformatory that a person had been guilty of previous offenses, or had been previously convicted or served time in any other reformatory or penitentiary, that he be immediately transferred to the state penitentiary.

R. H. G.

**Prisoners' Mail.**—In Vol. 4, No. 6, March, 1914, beginning page 920 of this Journal, we published a note under the above title, which summarized the provisions in the various states of the Union with reference to mail privileges for convicts. The data there published came from the hand of J. J. Sanders, Parole Clerk of the Arizona State Prison. We have just received a pamphlet under this title, by the same author, which contains some information that we set forth here to supplement the note referred to above. Since that note was published, Mr. Sanders has secured information as follows:

In Arkansas, the inmates of the state prison are allowed an unlimited daily letter mail. They are also allowed the newspapers, periodicals and magazines.

## FAR EASTERN BAR ASSOCIATION

In Delaware, the inmates of the state prison are allowed to write one letter a month. In matters of importance, special permission for additional letters may be obtained from the warden. No daily newspapers are allowed, but the reading of current magazines is permitted.

In Illinois, the inmates of the state prison are divided into three grades. First grade prisons are allowed to write one letter every two weeks, and all inmates are allowed to write one letter each month. They may receive all letters sent to them. One daily newspaper and all current magazines are allowed.

In Louisiana, the inmates of the state prison are allowed the privilege of the daily mail, including the daily papers and current magazines.

In Nebraska, convicts in the state prison are allowed to receive all letters sent to them. They are permitted to write four letters a month, with special privileges in matters of importance. They are allowed also the daily newspapers and current magazines.

In Utah, the inmates of the state prison may write four letters a month. Second grade men are allowed to write but one letter a month. All are permitted to receive daily papers and magazines.

R. H. G.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Far Eastern American Bar Association.**—A meeting to effect the final organization of the Far Eastern American Bar Association was held in the session hall of the United States Court for China on Dec. 7. A movement has been on foot for some time looking toward a permanent association of American lawyers practising throughout the Far East and it is the general belief that Shanghai, on account of its central location, and as the seat of the only United States Court in the Orient, should be its headquarters.

Among those who have given their formal adherence to the movement are:

Judge Charles S. Lobingier, Earl B. Rose, T. R. Jernigan, Arthur Bassett, Edgar P. Allen (Tientsin), William S. Fleming, Stirling Fessenden, Joseph N. Wolfson (Manila), James B. Davies, Cecil R. Holcomb, Arthur S. Allen, H. D. Rodger, M. L. Heen, Harry A. Lucker (Tientsin), Richard T. Evans (Tientsin), Ralph A. Frost (Hankow), C. W. Rankin (Soochow).

The Constitution, already signed by most of the above, specifies as the objects of the organization:

"The better to maintain the dignity, honor and interest of the American legal profession in the Far East, to promote and improve the *morale*, efficiency and solidarity of its members, to enable them to keep in touch with the progress of judicial science and its promoters throughout the world and especially in America, to assist in the due administration of justice the courts in which they practice and to secure the general observance of the American Bar Association's Canons of Legal Ethics which are hereby declared part of the rules of this Association."

Active membership is open to "any American citizen residing in the Far East who has been regularly admitted to practice in the Federal Supreme Court, the United States Court for China, or the highest court of any American state, territory or possession."

The admission fee is fixed at \$10, and necessary expenses beyond the amount realized from admission fees are to be met by voluntary assessments voted by the members. The Clerk of the United States Court for China, Mr. Earl B. Rose, is made *ex-officio* Secretary and Treasurer and all those joining before January 1, 1915, are considered charter members.—*The China Press*, Dec. 6, 1914. Chares S. Lobingier, Judge of U. S. Court, Shanghai.